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The Bible and daily living

By Dr. William L. Trimyer

Excerpts from a pilgrims journey

Lesson for January 27, 1980
Scripture References: John 13:36-38; 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-22
Focal Passages: John 13: 36-38; 18:25-27; 21:15-19
Putting Forth Our Best Foot [John 13:36-38]

Most of us have good intentions to make some needed changes or to follow through on certain commitments. Many people may have made New Year resolutions with a serious intent to carry them out. We know, of course, that resolutions may quickly become hollow platitudes unless we put feet and hands into action.

Simon Peter, better known as the "ROCK", was a man with good intentions. Some may wish to give him the nickname of "ROCKY," for Peter was one who "went the distance" as a disciple of - Jesus. He lost numerous battles in his bid to be a faithful follower, but he did manage overall to win the war!

In this week's lesson we note Peter's good intentions. We see him putting forth his best foot in an attempt to follow Jesus as a good disciple. But Peter does not understand that he cannot follow Jesus down Golgotha's bitter trail. Peter even expressed his intentions to give up his life as a means of demonstrating his loyalty and love for the Master.

Jesus then shares his observations about Peter's character and intentions. It must have been difficult for Peter to hear Jesus' analysis of his resolution to offer his life as a supreme test of his love. Jesus bluntly told Peter that his loyalty would be tested time and again.

We can easily identify with Peter at certain points. We each know how easy it can be to utter brave words regarding our intentions to achieve certain goals. We know deep down that our intentions and actions do now always coincide. It is important to remember that life and faith is to be lived one day at a time. The Christian pilgrimage is a journey which requires continual affirmations and recommitments.

The Agony of Failure [John 18:15-18, 25-27]

Have you ever started out on some mission or conquest, only to lose courage and turn back? Have you ever started to a friend's home to work out a broken relationship, only to get to the door and retreat?

Peter had such an experience as he sought to defend his loyalty and love for Jesus. In his effort to display his loyalty he discovered that his courage fell by the wayside. Peter must have went to the home of the high priest with mixed feelings. On the one hand, he went with a heart set on declaring his loyalty; and on the other hand he may have feared the consequences of being identified with Jesus.

The maid who answered the door immediately recognized him, but Peter denied his relationship to Jesus. But Peter was not to be done in. He remained outside, warming himself by the fire and looking on in silent concern.

On two more occasions Peter was given the opportunity to confess his identity as a disciple, but both times he denied his affiliation with Jesus. In the third instance Peter heard the nearby crowing of a rooster. That sound went off in his head like a bombshell. What Jesus predicted came true! Peter denied his Lord three times.

His responsiveness to the cock crowing reveals Peter's shame and love. He knew he had "failed his Master and himself. But tears of remorse can be evidence of healing and restoration.

Good News Of A Happy Ending [John 21:15-19]

The amazing thing about Jesus is that he does not readily give up on those whose intentions are good. Whereas the Rich Young Ruler turned from the invitation to follow Jesus and never came back, Peter continued to reveal his feeble efforts to follow as a good disciple.

Jesus did not make a mistake in nicknaming Peter as the "Rock." Jesus instinctively knew that Peter's feet continued to follow in the right direction. Though Peter flunked the test on numerous occasions, Jesus sensed that he was a person whose intentions were good. Make no mistake about it, God will honor those intentions which seek to demonstrate love for Him.

Peter was given a test consisting of three questions, and in each instance Peter answered with the same response. In each instance Jesus retorts with a command for Peter to serve Him through good works, "Feed my lambs... my sheep."

What follows is a future pronouncement concerning the fate of Peter. In a word, Peter's commitment would one day bring him to face a martyr's death. The force of evil would eventually turn on him and he would die at the hands of a bloodthirsty mob.

Tradition has it that Peter, at his own request, was crucified with his head down. Such an act reveals Peter's devotion and depth of commitment.

Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin, Va.

The pastor speaks

How to be great

Jesus taught that true greatness is characterized by humility. Once the disciples came to Jesus to ask which of them would be greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them; and said; "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Humility is being free from pride and arrogance. When mountain sheep meet each other on a narrow mountain path and cannot pass each other. One sheep lays down and lets the other walk over it. When mountain goats meet each other and cannot pass, they butt and ram each other's head until one or both fails down the precipice to their death on the rocks below. Pride goeth before a fall. Humility is the way to life.

Jesus taught true greatness comes through service. Once when the disciples got into a dispute over which of them should be the greatest, Jesus took a towel and a basin of water and washed the disciples feet. He taught them that true greatness is service.

And then true greatness is characterized by taking care of the many duties near you. This is taught in the words of the grand old hymn:

"Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,
Do not wait to shed your light afar,
To the many duties ever near you now be true,
Brighten the corner where you are."

People dream of great opportunities in the future and neglect the opportunities of service in their daily walk. They say if I were somewhere else I could serve better and fail to do their best where they are. This is the peril of the elsewhere. Jesus is our example. Everything he did was marked by greatness.

Rev. G. Edward Hughes
Pastor
Red Oak Baptist Church

St. Luke

After the snow for Jan. 6 the preaching services had to be cancelled at the St. Luke Baptist Church because of it. But a nice group of members and friends were present at the regular preaching services for the third Sunday, Jan. 20 at 11:00 a.m. Rev. J. C. McLaughlin was present. Rev. Alvin Jones was there to assist in the devotions. The Senior Choir gave the music and the Junior and Senior Ushers served. Rev. McLaughlin gave an inspiring message from Matthew 6:9 and 1st. Subject - Journing Through a Wilderness. This was well taken. The offering was good.

On the First Sunday in Feb. will be installation services for all newly elected officers. Looking forward to a full attendance then.

On Sat., Jan. 19 at St. Luke Church, Mrs. Anna Canada and Mrs. Inez Pattrick sponsored a surprise birthday occasion for Mrs. Louise Canada. Very carefully and secretly they got all friends together there and got Mrs. Canada there without her even knowing what was up. It was something to see when she was ushered in to the party. Joy, mixed with tears, then laughter, and smiles. This was a joy to all. Much happiness for Mrs. Canada. Those making contributions of gifts were: Mrs. Mary Hamlette, Miss Thelma Hamlette, Scott and Russell Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Taff Huitt, Miss Annie Hancock and Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Pattick. Those who made contributions of money were: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scott, and Mr. Russell Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Canada, (also a plate), Mr. Otis Tucker, Rev. Alvin Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Mason, Mrs. Deloris Hamlette, Mr. and Mrs. Sam

Zion Baptist Church

I was glad when they said let us go into the house of the Lord. A large crowd of members and visiting friends attended the regular preaching service held at the Zion Baptist Church Sunday at 11 a.m. The pastor, Rev. Charles Lewis, delivered a challenging message. Rev. Lewis spoke from St. Mark, first verse.

Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Jackson, Mrs. Ruth Hamlette, Mrs. Louise Harvey, Mr. Marshall Patrick, Mrs. Evatna Prophett, Mrs. Louise Blankenship, Mr. George Martin, Mrs. Mary Hamlette, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Canada, Rev. and Mrs. J. E. McLaughlin, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Grover Beasley, Mrs. Eva Clarke, Mrs. Shirley Mitchell, Mrs. Virginia Davis, Mrs. Louise Burkes. This was a very pleasant and loving affair. Thanks to all.

Mrs. Helen Jones is still in the hospital. We hope for an improvement in her condition.

His subject was "The Gospel of the Christian Service". All present enjoyed this great message. The Junior Choir and Mrs. Rebecca Ferguson, along with the Male Chorus rendered beautiful music for the service. Our offering was very good for the day.

The Senior Usher board will meet next Sunday after Sunday School at 11 a.m.

The regular church meeting will be the first Saturday in February at 2 p.m.

The Junior Ushers Board will meet Feb. 3 after the morning service.

Our sick are improving. We are praying for our sick and shut-in everywhere.

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Karl Tamburr
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German for Travelers
Ronald E. Horwege
Mondays, 7-9:00 p.m. 208 Benedict

Teachers, Parents, and Children: Who Teaches? Who Learns?
William E. Royalty
Tuesdays, 7-9:30 p.m. 208 Benedict

Representative Symphonic Works of the Late 18th and 19th Centuries
John R. Shannon
Tuesdays, 7-9:30 p.m. 127 Babcock

Creative Writing: Poetry and Prose
Anselm Hollo
Wednesdays, 7-9:30 p.m. 101 Benedict

American and British Plays Since 1965
Thomas C. Allen
Wednesdays, 7-9:30 p.m. 208 Benedict

Aging and Human Development
Jefferson Beaubier
Thursdays, 7-9:30 p.m. 208 Benedict

Non-credit Courses

Reading and Studying Efficiently
Katharine Barnhardt Chase
Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m. 102 Benedict
(8 meetings)

Beginning Modern Dance
Michael E. Stearns
Mondays, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Dance Studio, Gym
(5 meetings)

Stained and Leaded Glass
Karen Frederic
Tuesdays, 7-9:30 p.m. 106 Benedict
(7 meetings)

Grow it Yourself
Sally Bowley
Tuesdays, 7-9:30 p.m. Greenhouse
(4 meetings)

Basic Photography
David I. Abrams
Tuesdays, 7-9:00 p.m. for 4 weeks and 7-9:30 p.m. for 4 weeks Lab fee: $5
(8 meetings) 101 Benedict

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Barbara Cornett
Begins March 5
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(6 meetings) Lab fee: $10, for small loom and materials

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photo by Robert E. Pankey
Miss Doris Mae Hughes

Miss Hughes to wed

Mrs. Sidney W. Hughes proudly announces the engagement of her daughter, Doris Mae to Paul Ashley McClary, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. McClary, all of Appomattox.

Miss Hughes, also the daughter of the late Mr. Hughes, is a 1978 graduate of Appomattox County High School. She is employed by Armstrong Furniture Ind., Inc. in Appomattox.

Mr. McClary attended Appomattox County High School and is now serving with the United States Coast Guard, stationed in Yorktown, Va.

The wedding is planned for 2 o'clock the afternoon of April 12 in Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox.

Although no invitations are being issued, friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Society News

Call 352-8215

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bugg and Nadine spent Saturday in Richmond. They visited Mrs. Lucy Tyree on Saturday night, in Richmond resident.

• • •

Miss Teresa Lettner of Ashland spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Ranson.

• • •

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Hayes spent the weekend in Lexington with Mr. and Mrs. Ken Coleman.

• • •

Mrs. Tom Jackson of Newport News spent several days this week with her son-in-law, and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Ranson.

• • •

J. Lloyd Hudson and Mrs. Margaret Wooldridge spent Saturday in Culpeper where they visited their sisters, Mrs. Lucille Blanks and Miss Mabel Hudson at the Culpeper Baptist Home.

• • •

John S. Grinels is a patient in Virginia Baptist Hospital where he is undergoing treatment.

• • •

Lloyd Hudson spent Monday and Tuesday in Roxboro, North Carolina where he visited Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Hudson.

• • •

Mrs. Margaret Lee has returned home from Virginia Baptist Hospital where she underwent surgery.

• • •

Earl Agee has returned home from Virginia Baptist Hospital after undergoing surgery.

• • •

Col. Virginia is at her home at Pinegrove Farm following a two-week vacation in Florida.

Lena Banton celebrates 89th

On Jan. 9 Mrs. Lena Banton (Mrs. Charles) of Appomattox county was 89 years young.

A birthday reception was given on Sunday afternoon from 3 - 5 p.m. in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Grover Smith in Baltimore. A number of her friends from the Sunday School class and the Carrollwood Baptist Church came by to wish her many more years.

She received many cards and gifts. Among the many cards were two from the White House.

Garden club sets meeting

The Appomattox Garden Club will meet on Monday, Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Parish Hall.

The program will be "Blooms for the Winter", making and arranging silk flowers.

The Artistic Exhibits will be: Class I - "Shades of Yesterday", design using dried and /or treated plant materials; and Class II - "Beauty from the Forest", design using all fresh green plant materials.

All members are urged to attend.

U.D.C. held luncheon

The Appomattox Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy met Jan. 17 at Maudes for a luncheon.

Mrs. Lucille Ferrell presented a program on Col. Henry Kyd Douglas. Douglas studied law in the East and volunteered to go to war a week after Virginia seceded from the Union. While he was in school at Lexington he was told that, "Old Jack is a character, a genius or just a little crazy", by Bath, later to become General Terrell. He was under Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson's leadership. Douglas found Jackson to be a leader who accepted the same things for himself that he expected his men to do.

Douglas's memories of the "War Between the States" written while he was in the Confederate Army are of the youthful response he made in military situations as they arose. He rose from private to captain. Later he became Leader of the Light Brigade in Petersburg. He led his starving force from Petersburg to Appomattox. Since he was the last to surrender, he and his Brigade were allowed to be the last to stack arms.

Mrs. O. W. Martin, president, conducted the business session.

She announced that the 85th Convention will be held Oct. 7 - 9 at Natural Bridge, Virginia.

The U.D.C. will meet in February at the home of Mrs. O. W. Martin for a covered dish luncheon.

Guests entertained by Golden Hearts Club

On Dec. 30, 1979, The Golden Hearts Club entertained the following guests at dinner: Rev. and Mrs. R. Q. Lawing, Rev. and Mrs. James Walker, Farmville, Va., Rev. and Mrs. Robert Patton, formerly of Maryland, but now residing in Buckingham, Miss Gertrude Johnson and Mr. Percy Johnson.

Club members present were Mesdames Mary Marshall, Sallie Jenkins, Lois Bigelow, Annie Jones, Hulda Johnson, and Armeta Jordan, President.

This delicious dinner was enjoyed at Maudes.

Miss Danette Ann Letterman

Miss Letterman engaged

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Letterman of Pamplin have announced the engagement of their daughter, Danette Ann, to Brian Dale Jennings, son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Jennings.

Miss Letterman is a senior at Appomattox County High School.

Mr. Jennings is a 1974 graduate of Appomattox County High School. He is employed by Owen Henderson.

No date for the wedding has been set.

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